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Stamas Fights to Protect K-12 Education

Sponsors amendment to rescue education funding

LANSING – Senator Tony Stamas, R-Midland, today sponsored an amendment protecting K-12 education in the face of another budget shortfall in the state School Aid Fund. The shortfall was announced at the May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference held yesterday at the Michigan State Capitol.

“It is unreasonable to ask schools to slash their budgets as they prepare for the end of the school year. I am glad that the governor agrees with Senate Republicans that education funding should remain solvent”, Stamas said

On Wednesday, the Senate acted promptly to move Senate Bill 183, which as a result of the Stamas’ amendment, transfers \$61 million from the general fund to the state School Aid Fund. The transfer reflects the estimated net shortfall in the School Aid Fund determined by the revenue estimating conference. The approximately \$31 million remaining in the shortfall will be handled by the refinancing of existing bonds.

“We cannot allow Michigan’s parents and students to bear the full weight of the state’s budget shortfall,” Stamas said. “The action we took today will prevent the massive cuts school districts would have been forced to make.”

The May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference provided lawmakers with details on the state’s economic outlook and revenue collections. Figures released during the conference show a significant budget shortfall in the 2003 School Aid Fund of nearly \$92 million.

“Transferring money from the general fund to the School Aid Fund represents our priorities during the challenging process of balancing the state budget,” Stamas said. The revenue estimating conference also provided lawmakers with information on the collection of state revenues, the status of the state and national economy and the budget pictures for the 2003 and 2004 Fiscal Years.